

*A Service of Worship on the Lord's Day*  
*Baptism of Jesus*  
January 12, 2025



*Gathering in God's Presence*

Restrooms and Nursery Care are in the Fellowship Hall next door.

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG #155

“Raise a Song of Gladness”

Taizé

Two-voice canon  
♩ = 84

Raise a song of glad-ness peo - ple of the earth  
 Christ has come bring-ing peace, joy to ev - 'ry heart  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Come to the water!  
In the beginning God spoke of the deep and created all life.
- All: **Let us renew God's life deep within us  
in the powerful waters of love and hope.**
- One: Let us gather at the river Jordan  
and enter the watershed of our faith--
- All: **Threshold of God's promised kingdom,  
refuge of the God's true prophets.**
- One: We humbly return to our Source,
- All: **that we may be washed and refreshed;  
filled to flow with God's grace and purpose.**

HYMN #476

“Crashing Waters of Creation”

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

- One: Here, at the waters, we gather to come clean of our complicity with evil,  
and be refreshed to face the hostile world as followers of Jesus.  
Therefore, in accordance with Jesus' example to live into a life of righteousness,  
I invite you to reaffirm your baptismal vows.  
Do you renounce all evil and the powers in the world  
which defy God's justice and love?
- All: **I renounce them.**
- One: Do you renounce any behaviors or attitudes  
that put you at odds with the love of God.
- All: **I renounce them.**
- One: Do you turn to Jesus as Christ, and will you be Jesus' faithful follower,  
obeying his commands and showing his love in your way of life?
- All: **I do and I will, with God's help.**

SILENT PRAYER *(take time to be personal and specific)*

SONG #2253

“Water, River, Spirit, Grace”

ASSURANCE

- One: Hear God's declaration of gracious acceptance:  
'You are my child, and beloved; with you I am well pleased.'
- All: **May God's Spirit descend upon us all.**

**\*PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE**

*Hearing God's Word*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**"God of the Word"**

Out of the bab - ble that sur - rounds us, out of the  
cha - os that's with - in, where can we go to find our  
mean - ing? Is there a place we can be - gin?  
God of the Word, now let the Word be spo - ken. Word of our  
God, come vis - it us with grace. Rise like a fra - grance,  
like a chord of mu - sic, fill - ing all this ho - ly place.

Text and music: Ken Medema (b. 1943)

© 1993, Ken Medema Music/ASCAP/Brier Patch Music

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**Psalm 91**

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**Mark 1:4-14**

*Responding to God's Word*

**SERMON**

**"Where Are the Angels?"**

Ms. Joseph Rack

**HYMN**

**"Holy River Never Failing"**

Ho - ly riv - er, nev - er fail - ing, here we stand and look to  
Emp - ty prom - is - es di - vide us. Emp - ty goals stand in our  
Keep us mind - ful of our one - ness in your wa - ter's wide em -  
Ho - ly riv - er, flow up - on us. Come and green our wilt - ed  
you. Pour your pres - ence now up - on us come and  
way. We re - nounce the man - y "is - ms" that turn  
brace. Give us eyes to see our kin - ship ev - ery -  
vine. We are thirst - ing for your jus tice. May your

christ - en us a - new. You have named us all your  
 we to "we" and "they." We ack - now - ledge our in -  
 where in ev - ery face. May we learn the way of  
 reign be our true wine. Give us cour - age to be  
 peo - ple. You have birthed us as your own. You've re -  
 volve - ment we have all di - vi - ders been. Make us  
 Je - sus, reach to all with o - pen hands. May we  
 faith - ful. May we know we're not a - lone. Give us  
 stored us, whol - ly fam - ily, in your Spir - it flow - ing down.  
 heal - ers of di - vi - sion, as your fam - ily we de - fend.  
 learn to live to - ge - ther, lov - ing all as Christ com - mands.  
 joy in our re - un - ion with our sib - lings fin - ally known.

Words: Bret Helsa

Music: BEACH SPRING

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*One: Let us say what we believe.*

**All: We believe in Jesus Christ,  
 Son of the One God,  
 maker and sustainer of the universe.  
 Born of Mary's womb,  
 Jesus lived a human life as God intended.  
 He healed the sick,  
 served the poor,  
 and proclaimed heaven's intent on earth.  
 Condemned by the religious,  
 crucified by the state, he died  
 but transformed even death  
 and rose to life everlasting.  
 Jesus blessed the disciples with the Holy Spirit  
 and sent them forth,  
 east and west, north and south.  
 We commit ourselves to Jesus Christ,  
 to one another as brothers and sisters,  
 and to Christ's mission in the world.**

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

#### SHARING OUR CALLINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (pray the Lord's Prayer in a way meaningful to you)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
 Your kingdom come,  
 your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

\*HYMN #2122 "She Comes Sailing on the Wind"

CLOSING SENTENCES

One: Help us emerge from baptismal waters, God,

All: to your clear way of thinking,  
to your uncomplicated way of loving.

One: Help us emerge from baptismal waters, God,

All: to simply follow Jesus,  
washed clean of our fears,  
refreshed by your blessing.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG "Baptized in Water"

*Brightly*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo/style marking is 'Brightly'. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system has a 3-measure phrase with a triplet of eighth notes. The second system starts with a 4-measure rest, followed by a 3-measure phrase with a triplet of eighth notes. The third system has a 3-measure phrase with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Bap-tized in wa - ter, sib-ling of Je - sus, sealed with the sign of grace, I am com - mis - sioned with all be-lieve - ers to show God's hu - man face.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

Bap-tized in wa - ter, sib-ling of Je - sus, sealed with the  
sign of grace, I am com - mis - sioned with all be-  
lieve - ers to show God's hu - man face.

Words & music © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH, Scotland.

+++

Thank you to our Liturgist this morning, Cindy DeCloux.